

Congress of the United States

Washington, D. C. 20515

May 6, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representative
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

In March, Congress took decisive, bipartisan action to stabilize the American economy and protect families nationwide from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Now, as we continue to assess the impact of COVID-19 on our communities, we write to request that any future relief package provide strong financial assistance to the United States Postal Service (USPS) while also enacting reforms necessary for its long-term viability.

On April 9, 2020 Postmaster General Megan Brennan informed the House Committee on Oversight and Reform that the Postal Service anticipates a loss of \$13 billion in 2020 and \$54.3 billion over the next ten years as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, and that under current conditions, USPS will go bankrupt by the end of Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20). While the CARES Act provided USPS an additional \$10 billion in borrowing authority from the Treasury, we believe that Congress must provide the Postal Service with the full amount requested by the bipartisan Postal Service Board of Governors: \$25 billion in emergency appropriations to offset losses; \$25 billion to fund “shovel-ready” modernization efforts; and an additional \$25 billion in unrestricted borrowing authority. Additionally, Congress should eliminate the USPS’ outstanding debt obligations and provide necessary funds to allow USPS workers to receive hazard pay for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.

Once Congress has stabilized USPS’ finances, it is imperative that we provide the regulatory reform necessary to ensure its long-term viability. We ask Congress to end USPS’ prefunding mandate instituted by the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) of 2006. Since 2006, the prefunding mandate has required that the Postal Service pay for 75 years of retiree health benefits. This unprecedented mandate has cost USPS \$5.4 billion annually since it went into effect in 2007, preventing investment in critical infrastructure upgrades that would enhance its services. According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the USPS has lost \$69 billion over the past 11 years, much of it attributable to the prefunding mandate.¹ As you know, the House has already passed H.R. 2382, which would end USPS’ prefunding mandate, by a bipartisan vote of 309-106 in February. If Congress were to eliminate USPS’ prefunding

¹ U.S. Government Accountability Office. (2018, August). *Postal Retiree Health Benefits: Unsustainable Finances Need to Be Addressed*. (Publication number GAO-18-602). Retrieved from https://www.gao.gov/key_issues/us_postal_service_financial_viability/issue_summary

mandate now, we would not only ameliorate this unfair burden but also explore ways to ensure USPS can maintain full services when Americans – especially seniors, veterans, and those in rural communities – are relying on efficient delivery of Economic Impact Payments and medication as they face the impacts of COVID-19.

In the CARES Act, Congress sought to stabilize our nation from the consequences of the novel coronavirus. Now, as we seek to stimulate our nation, we must take decisive steps to secure one of our country’s oldest, most cherished, and most valuable institutions.

We thank you for your consideration of these important requests.

Sincerely,

/s/ Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

/s/ Peter A. DeFazio
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

/s/ Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Peter Welch
Peter Welch
Member of Congress

/s/ Terri A. Sewell
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

/s/ Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Grace F. Napolitano
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

/s/ Vincente Gonzalez
Vincente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

/s/ Eleanor Holmes Norton
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/ Mark Takano
Mark Takano
Member of Congress

/s/ Barbara Lee
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

/s/ Jim Costa
Jim Costa
Member of Congress

/s/ Danny K. Davis
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

/s/ Marcia L. Fudge
Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

/s/ Lucille Roybal-Allard
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

/s/ Ted W. Lieu
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

/s/ Ted Deutch
Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

/s/ Nydia M. Velázquez
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

/s/ Earl Blumenauer
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

/s/ Thomas R. Suozzi
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

/s/ Joyce Beatty
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

/s/ Stephen F. Lynch
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

/s/ Anthony G. Brown
Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

/s/ Debbie Dingell
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

/s/ G. K. Butterfield
G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

/s/ Deb Haaland
Deb Haaland
Member of Congress

/s/ Cedric L. Richmond
Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

/s/ Raúl M. Grijalva
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

/s/ Alan Lowenthal
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

/s/ Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

/s/ Al Lawson
Al Lawson
Member of Congress

/s/ Donna E. Shalala
Donna E. Shalala
Member of Congress

/s/ Gerald E. Connolly
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

/s/ Derek Kilmer
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

/s/ Alcee L. Hastings
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

/s/ Jared Huffman
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

/s/ Sylvia R. Garcia
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

/s/ Marcy Kaptur
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

/s/ Chellie Pingree
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

/s/ Rashida Tlaib
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

/s/ Jahana Hayes
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

/s/ Ruben Gallego
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

/s/ Angie Craig
Angie Craig
Member of Congress

/s/ Jamie Raskin
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/ Rosa L. DeLauro
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

/s/ Joe Neguse
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

/s/ Mike Thompson
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

/s/ Paul D. Tonko
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

/s/ Wm. Lacy Clay
Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

/s/ Zoe Lofgren
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

/s/ Tim Ryan
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

/s/ Lori Trahan
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

/s/ Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

/s/ Eliot L. Engel
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

/s/ Kathy Castor
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

/s/ Rick Larsen
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

/s/ Norma J. Torres
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

/s/ Albio Sires
Albio Sires
Member of Congress

/s/ Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Diana DeGette
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

/s/ Betty McCollum
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

/s/ Steve Cohen
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

/s/ Lisa Blunt Rochester
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

/s/ Katie Porter
Katie Porter
Member of Congress

/s/ William R. Keating
William R. Keating
Member of Congress

/s/ Jesús G. “Chuy” García
Jesús G. “Chuy” García
Member of Congress

/s/ John Yarmuth
John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

/s/ Mike Levin
Mike Levin
Member of Congress

/s/ Joseph D. Morelle
Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress

/s/ Jerry McNerney
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

/s/ Darren Soto
Darren Soto
Member of Congress

/s/ TJ Cox
TJ Cox
Member of Congress

/s/ Eddie Bernice Johnson
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

/s/ Linda T. Sánchez
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

/s/ Xochitl Torres Small
Xochitl Torres Small
Member of Congress

/s/ David E. Price
David E. Price
Member of Congress

/s/ Yvette D. Clarke
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

/s/ Lizzie Fletcher
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

/s/ Maxine Waters
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

/s/ Jackie Speier
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

/s/ Steven Horsford
Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

/s/ Brian Higgins
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress